1995 - 2015

A Season in Review for
Omaha Theater Company
and Rose Blumkin
Performing Arts Center Foundation

2015-16 Annual Report
Numbers Served in 2015-16

Public Show Attendance: 73,891 people

Pre-K Show Attendance: 1,194 people

Memberships: 3,213 families which includes 190 memberships underwritten by the Bob & Evelyn Veach Foundation

School Field Trips: 30,260 children

Workshops: 1,126 workshops

Classes and Camps: 1,526 students
Approximately 67 students were enrolled in classes for children with special needs.

Teens ‘N’ Theater: 104 teen participants
1,033 show attendance

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Enriching the lives of children and their families through live theater and arts education.

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Letter from the Director

Your support this season led to several important milestones for The Rose. In April, we were named one of the “20 Theatres You Should Take Your Kids To” by American Theatre magazine. Justin Townsend, who designed sets and lights for our production of Plastic Drastic, was nominated for not one but two 2016 TONY Awards for his work on Broadway! This was also a season in which we fully produced four world premiere productions of new work for young people. Your choice to support The Rose Theater is a choice not simply to bring theater to children but to give some of the very best theatrical productions in Omaha to the children of our community.

We do so with a deep commitment to inclusivity. Our Every Single Child initiative is an ongoing example of our successful efforts to reach underserved young people. Our programs for children with autism, with developmental and with physical disabilities are also nationally renowned. Unique to this season, we wrote and premiered Palette of Possibility, which was a beautiful exploration of color. This entire production was made for autistic students to appreciate. It is also emblematic of our resolve to use art as a tool for community-building and understanding. Your generosity ensures the fulfillment of that resolve and we are energized by your commitment. Thank you!

Matthew Gutchick

Matthew Gutchick
Artistic Director
(402) 502-4618
http://www.rosetheater.org/
No list of highlights would be complete without a story like the one Rose Theater Teaching Artist Kevin Ehrhart shared at a recent department head meeting about a student in one of his year-long classes. This student did not speak at school for the past two years. She was selectively silent in public, but spoke at home. She communicated during class by using an iPad. She participated in class, and even took the “question of the day” home to share the exercise with her parents. This spring, after taking class with Kevin Ehrhart and Fellow Olivia Jones, she started to speak aloud for the first time, both at school and at The Rose. Her parents credit The Rose for creating the safe environment for her come out of this self-imposed shell.
## Financial Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OMAHA THEATER</th>
<th>ROSE BLUMKIN</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
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<td>Accounts payable &amp; accrued expenses</td>
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### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE PERCENTAGES

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<td>Government Grants</td>
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*Presented are the most recently audited figures. Final audited figures for the 2015-16 season will be available in the fall of 2016.*
Board of Trustees

Officers:
- Colleen Batcheler  
  President
- Troy Romero  
  President-Elect
- Curt Witzenburg  
  Past President
- Dr. Louisa Foster  
  Chair of Production & Education
- Cherie Lytle  
  Vice President of Marketing & Development
- Nicki Cleveland  
  Vice President of Finance
- Bill Stott  
  Secretary & By-laws
- Toby Schropp  
  Foundation Representative

Trustees:
- Jen Alloway
- Liz Akert
- Allison Balus
- Chris Blumkin
- Donna Dobson
- Brook Hudson
- Angie Kaipust
- Jake McGee
- Tiffany Paben
- Andrew Ross
- Todd Scholz
- Lori Scott
- Erika Teutsch
- Anna Castner Wightman
- Debora Wisneski
- Nick Zadina
- Matt Gutschick  
  Artistic Director
- Julie Walker  
  Managing Director

The Rose Guild

- Jennifer Alloway
- Jennifer Benson
- Erica Bryant
- Jennifer Buda
- Karen Burmood
- Karissa Burroughs
- Liz Bushey
- Chaley Chandler
- Stephanie Cota
- Jessica Covi
- Angela Cutler
- Brittany Dabestani
- Amanda Dana
- Jessica Fellmeier
- Ashley Gloystein
- Ellen Grace
- Karen Granger
- Marla Grose
- Mary Lynn Hallett
- Cari Harris
- Melissa Hegarty
- Courtney Hellman
- Amy Henderson
- Karen Hickman
- Jennifer Koorn
- Wendi Kroeger
- Janelle Kupka
- Amanda LaPuzza
- Michelle Leitner
- Meghan Lewis
- Ashley McMahon
- Maria Minderman
- Wendy Moore
- Kim Nolan
- Kris Patton
- Cathy Proctor
- Deyna Rouse
- Andee Scioli
- Lindsey Semrad
- Carrie Sitton
- Michelle Smithberg
- Kendra Swanson
- Cindy Vaccaro
- Heather Vanourney
- Lori Waterstraat

“Thank you to The Rose Guild for its donation of $180,000!”
The Rose Staff

Artistic Director - Matthew Gutschick
Managing Director - Julie Walker

Production Staff

Production Director – Erin Solemsaas
Technical Director – Grant Hilgenkamp
Costume & Make-Up Director – Sherri Geerdes
Costume Shop Foreman – Erin Bragg
Properties Master – Christopher Dills
Resident Lighting & Sound Director – Kyle L. Toth
Master Carpenter – Robert Ortiz
Charge Scenic Artist – Lauren Crabtree
Resident Stage Manager – Ashleigh-Dawn Kreigh-Fleming
Year-Long Technical Interns – Laura Hensley, Diana Lynch, Kallie Alicia Robinson

Artistic Staff

Acting Company – Kevin Ehrhart, Brian Guehring, Stephanie Jacobson, Michael Miller, Michael Wilhelm
Playwright in Residence – Brian Guehring
Literary Manager – Michael Miller

Education Staff

Education Director – Brian Guehring
Broadway Director – Sue Gillespie Booton
Education Coordinator – Deprecia Wright
Youth Productions Director – Stephanie Jacobson
Artistic Associate – Director of Outbound Programming – Tyrone Beasley
Teaching Artists – Kevin Ehrhart, Stephanie Jacobson, Michael Miller, Michael Wilhelm
Contract Teaching Artists – Caulene Hudson, Katie Otten, Shannon Wade
Broadway Instructors – Sue Gillespie Booton, Rachel Busse, Ashley Durst, Claire Goodwillie, Natasha Grimm, Katlin Leonard, Nikki McMullen, Ashley Reabe, Doran Schmidt, Katrinka Stayton, Laurelin Sterns, Deprecia Wright
Teaching Fellows – Olivia Jones, Katy Kepler,
Artistic Fellow – Nik Whitcomb
High School Interns – Ben Adams, Anna Becker, Zach Bowen, An’Drea Goynes, Steven Gray, Caolina Hernandez, Brock McCullough, Kevin Mikuls, Maria Naylon, Morgan Williams

Administrative Staff

Finance Director – Janelle Kupka
Accounting Assistant – Terri Deaver
Facilities Director – Scott Kupka
Facilities Staff – Nils Haaland
Chief Information Officer – Kevin Ehrhart
Patron/Member Services Coordinator – Mandy Aleksiak
Groups/Schools Services Coordinator – Lindy Glenn
Marketing Director – Kori Radloff
Marketing Associate – Alex Myhre
Development Consultant – Vic Gutman
Development Specialist – Lisa Winton
Grants Manager – Mary Hubl
House Manager/Box Office Manager – Scott Pace
Box Office Assistants – Brodey Bartlett, Josh Mullady, Paige Pace, Jen Lempke, Kelsey Ribordy
2015-16 Season Shows

**Pete the Cat**
- **Dates:** September 11-27, 2015
- **Director:** Rob Urbinati
- **Public Attendance:** 11,115
- **School Field Trip Attendance:** 7,218
- **Sponsors:** Children’s Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Wells Fargo

“What a wonderful show and the staff were so helpful. You can even meet the actors after the show.”

—ROSE AUDIENCE MEMBER

**Ivy + Bean**
- **Dates:** October 9-25, 2015
- **Director:** Susann Suprenant
- **Public Attendance:** 8,047
- **School Field Trip Attendance:** 3,381
- **Sponsors:** Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Furniture Mart, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

“The kids gasped when the wall went up to reveal Bean’s home, clapped with enthusiasm after each scene, whooped at the end and talked about the show as they filed out.”

—OMAHA WORLD HERALD REVIEW

**Sherlock Holmes & The First Baker Street Irregular**
- **Dates:** November 6-22, 2015
- **Director:** Kevin Ehrhart
- **Public Attendance:** 8,058
- **School Field Trip Attendance:** 3,587
- **Sponsors:** Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Furniture Mart, Security National Bank, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

“The play is a great way to introduce children to classic literature.”

—OMAHA WORLD-HERALD REVIEW
Peter and the Starcatcher
Dates: December 4-27, 2015
Director: Matthew Gutschick
Public Attendance: 4,762
School Field Trip Attendance: 664
Sponsors: Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Furniture Mart, Kid Cuisine, Hy-Vee, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

“Gutschick and company have a crowd-pleasing hit on their hands, thanks especially to Joshua Lloyd Parker and Bill Grennan.”
—OMAHA WORLD-HERALD REVIEW

The Lightning Thief
Dates: January 22 - 31, 2016
Director: Nick Saldivar
Public Attendance: 8,005
School Field Trip Attendance: 2,849
Sponsors: Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Furniture Mart, Baird Holm, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, WOWT NBC Omaha

“The Lightning Thief was very well done, fast paced with great music.”
—ROSE AUDIENCE MEMBER

Plastic Drastic
Director: Elena Araoz
Public Attendance: 5,311
School Field Trip Attendance: 1,271
Sponsors: Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Furniture Mart, Kiewit Corporation, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

“Stone and McGuire hit all the right notes as squabbling sibs who lovingly support each other when it counts.”
—OMAHA WORLD-HERALD REVIEW
HONK! The Musical
Dates: March 25 - Apr. 10, 2016
Director: Cynthia Gendrich
Public Attendance: 7,546
School Field Trip Attendance: 5,107
Sponsors: Season Sponsors: Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Furniture Mart, First National Bank, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

“The Rose glows in its production of the musical Honk. The cast, the sets, the costumes all combine for a wonderfully polished performance.”

—THE READER REVIEW

Elephant & Piggie’s We Are In A Play: The Musical
Dates: April 22 - May 8, 2016
Director: Michael Miller
Public Attendance: 7,903
School Field Trip Attendance: 7,310
Sponsors: Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Furniture Mart, Runza, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

“Elephant & Piggie has some larger-than-life surprises, lots of tomfoolery and some aspects of vaudeville - all elements of a fun show.”

—OMAHA WORLD-HERALD REVIEW

Disney’s The Little Mermaid
Dates: June 3-26, 2016
Director: Matthew Gutschick
Public Attendance: 13,142
Sponsors: Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Furniture Mart, Mutual of Omaha, WOWT NBC Omaha, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment

“It was an awesome production. My daughter was in awe the whole time.”

—ROSE AUDIENCE MEMBER

Pre-K Presentation: A Palette of Possibility
Dates: October 26 - November 14, 2015
Director: Gretta Berghammer
Public Attendance: 475
School Field Trip Attendance: 471

Pre-K Presentation: A Child’s Garden of Verses
Dates: January 9 - 30, 2016
Director: Stephanie Jacobson
Public Attendance: 719
School Field Trip Attendance: 751
In order to directly address the devastating effects of gang violence in our community, The Sherwood Foundation funded a unique collaboration between The Rose Theater and renowned actor, writer, director and activist Daniel Beaty.

In April 2015, Daniel facilitated workshops with over 80 current and former gang members and victims of gang violence to tell their stories. He then created a script based on the narratives that came out of the workshops and 14 people agreed to participate in the creation of a play where the stories were told. After a 10-week rehearsal process, the play I Dream of an Omaha Where… debuted in the Hitchcock Theater to sold-out houses in August 2015, and is thought to be the first time that current and former gang members and victims of gang violence were brought together to share their experiences in this way.

As part of the project, Omaha-based Mason Video was hired to chronicle the workshops, rehearsals and play. The full-length film premiered at Film Streams in October 2015 and has since won awards at film festivals both nationally and worldwide. It’s currently available on The Rose website for the general public and for schools, civic groups and other organizations. The “I Dream” project was a transformative experience for those sharing their stories and is also changing the dialogue in Omaha about the nature and impact of gang violence. Most of all, it is putting a human face on those who have or still are participating in gangs and the people who have been tragically affected by gang violence.
DRAMA at The Rose

DRAMA at The Rose classes promote creativity and provide students with an environment to explore their talent and imagination. In DRAMA classes, young people learn how to use their bodies to tell a story, new ways to use their voice, how to stretch their imagination, all while having fun in a safe, structured environment. Classes include acting, directing, playwriting, improv, stagecraft, puppetry, filmmaking and more.

BROADWAY at The Rose

Introduced in 2011, BROADWAY at The Rose is a complete musical theater, voice, acting and dance training program for students who just want to perform. In BROADWAY classes, young people perfect their skills and prepare to take the stage at school, in community productions, or even a play at The Rose. Classes culminated with a spring concert, and workshops with national guest artists, auditions and competitions were offered throughout the year.

Classes for Children with Special Needs

The Rose is a leader in the field of drama and dance instruction for children with special needs. Last season, The Rose served 67 students through its course offerings for children with autism, hearing impairments and developmental delays.
Brigade & Transcendtix

The Rose Brigade

BROADWAY cast 50 students to perform as members of its Jr. and Sr. Rose Brigade. Each company performed pre-shows before select Rose main stage performances. The Rose Brigade performed at the Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta where our “Into the Woods, Jr.” cast received an Outstanding Performance Award. Many students also received individual awards as well.

Transcendtix Dance Co.

Transcendtix is The Rose’s competitive dance team that was comprised of 20 students who made up three companies: mini, junior, and senior. The companies competed at several competitions. A few highlights of the year included winning Platinum awards in Viva Las Vegas (production number), Time Warp (advanced tap), Hit Me With Your Best Shot (jazz), Paradise Circus (contemporary) and Chapel Bound (jazz). Transcendtix had many soloists win Platinum awards as well.

Teens ’N’ Theater

The Intern Project: Zink: The Myth, The Legend, The Zebra
September 10, 12 & 13

BROADWAY at The Rose/TNT Collaborative Musical: Treasure Island
October 8, 10 & 11

Pride Players: Project 17
February 5, 7 & 8

Young, Gifted & Black
March 3, 5 & 6

Broken Mirror #16
April 7, 9 & 10

21st Annual Young Playwrights Festival
April 28, 30 & May 1
School Shows & Workshops
Underwriting from community supporters made it possible for The Rose to offer field trip performances at a substantially reduced rate that starts at only $2.25 for students who qualified for their school’s free lunch program. As a result, 30,260 students were able to attend one of The Rose’s ten 2015-16 school field trip shows.

In addition to field trip shows, more than a thousand curriculum-based workshops were offered and more than 120 performances of touring shows such as The Bully Show, Nebraskaland!, and The Super Adventures of Nutrition Woman and Dr. Exercise were produced for students throughout the season.

Every Single Child
Every Single Child offers metro-area students in kindergarten through eighth grade a new and unique curriculum-based drama experience each year. During the 2015-16 season, 27,368 students from 64 schools participated in the program. Many underfunded schools were able to make the program available to their students for free, thanks to underwriting from community supporters.
## 2015-16 Season Donors

This list reflects donors whose gifts were received June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016. Gifts received after June 5, 2016 will be acknowledged in next season’s annual report.

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Donor Names</th>
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<td>Douglas County, Holland Foundation, Peter Kiewit Foundation, Rose Blumkin Performing Arts Center Foundation, Rose Theater Guild, Sherwood Foundation</td>
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<td><strong>Fairy Godmother ($5,000 – $9,999)</strong></td>
<td>Oliver &amp; Ferrol Barklage Foundation, Children’s Theatre Foundation of America, Hy-Vee Food Stores, Kid Cuisine, Lincoln Financial Group, Sharee and Murray Newman, David &amp; Lori Scott, Runza Restaurants, Wells Fargo</td>
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<td><strong>Prince Charming ($2,500 – $4,999)</strong></td>
<td>Colleen &amp; Andrew Batcheler, Inavale Foundation, Patrick Foundation, Pape Family Foundation, Pinnacle Bank, Amy &amp; Andrew Ross, Toby &amp; Molly Schropp, Security National Bank, Tenaska, Union Pacific Railroad, Whitmore Charitable Trust</td>
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<td><strong>Mother Goose ($1,000 – $2,499)</strong></td>
<td>Advent, LLP, The Architectural Offices, Baird Holm LLP, Banyan Medical Systems, Bland Cares Foundation, Cox Communications, Deloitte, Dworak &amp; Donovan, Great Western Bank, Hancock &amp; Dana</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Princess Aurora ($500 – $999)</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Annamaria Nagy &amp; Dr. Tom McGinn, Ellie Batt, Gallagher Grace Mayer, Sheri &amp; Steve Idelman, Janet Strauss, Molly &amp; Curt Witzenburg</td>
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<td><strong>Jiminy Cricket ($250-$499)</strong></td>
<td>Central States Health &amp; Life Co.</td>
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<td>Katie &amp; Grant Hutchins</td>
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<td>Susan &amp; Michael Pinquoch</td>
<td>Kim Kalkowski &amp;</td>
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The value of sponsors and underwriters to The Rose Theater and its mission to enrich the lives of children and families through live theater and arts education cannot be overstated. Their support is vital to the continued success of The Rose Theater, and we would like to take this opportunity to say “thank you” for being our partners during the 2015-16 season!

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